

PRESS RELEASE

Exhibition of “Bodies of Care” on view at Galeri Salihara



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The instructional performance project **Bodies of Care** will be on view as a choreographic object exhibition at Galeri Salihara in Jakarta 4-17 December 2021. The first public exhibition of **Goethe-Institut Indonesien** in Indonesia since the beginning of the pandemic offers an inventory of the connections between choreography and “care”. On the opening week, the public can register for participation in live performances together with the artists at the Salihara rooftop and join an online discussion with experts from South East Asia and Germany.

Bodies of Care is an experimental project that is produced and organized by **Goethe-Institut Indonesien** and **Sasikirana KoreoLAB & Dance Camp**. The project was created by ten young choreographers together with performance artist **Melati Suryodarmo** and media and performance collective **LIGNA**.

Ten choreographers from Indonesia and Germany explore gestures and embodied practices of “care. Jointly, they developed several instructional performances entitled Bodies of Care that are deeply rooted in their specific local context yet globally connected. Their different performances explore the question of how the COVID-19 pandemic has changed our understanding of caring practices.

The exhibition seeks to provide insight into the production process and shows the documentation of creating instructional performances in ten different local contexts while making sense of the meaning of community and care in different spaces. The gallery becomes a participatory space for the public to respond individually or collectively to the instructional narratives. Participants are invited to watch, listen to and move with Bodies of Care while exploring gestures and embodied practices of “care” through choreography.

The choreographers are Abdul Hadi (Bandung), Kurniadi Ilham (Jambi), Densiel Lebang (Jakarta/Toraja), I Nyoman Krisna Satya Utama (Bali), Ela Mutiara (Sukabumi), Mekratingrum Hapsari (Solo), I Made Yogi Sugiarta (Bali), Eva Borrmann (Nürnberg, Germany), Izabella Maria Herzfeld (Berlin, Germany), and Marlen Pflueger & Yasmina Lammler (Berlin, Germany).

“The starting point of Bodies of Care is the significance of human bodies during the pandemic in relation to the context of distance and care. Instructional performances have become an alternative form of performing arts in public spaces. The audience or participants are actively involved in performing the piece. The experience of the public is the main objective of the project. We invite public from different backgrounds to become active in performing choreographies as instructed by the artists through recorded audio in the exhibition and through the live performances,” says Melati Suryodarmo, internationally renowned performance artist and mentor for the project.

Keni Soeriaatmadja, artistic director and head of Sasikirana Dance Company adds: “The responses we receive from the public who interacted with the instructions are exciting. So far, there have been more than 20 activations with hundreds of participants from different parts of the country, as if the ‘audience’ is reclaiming their space on the stage. We really try to build new relationships and reach out to more people to become familiar with performing artwork. And the exhibition is another important step in that direction.”

This project is a result of an intensive online artistic development process of the ten young choreographers and dancers. From June to September 2021, the choreographers collaborated in an explorative workshop series. The artists try to define care and community care in relation to their practices as choreographers expressly related to the embodiment of care in their communities.

Exhibition

04. - 17.12.2021

Opening hours: 10 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. WIB

OFFLINE | Komunitas Salihara

Live performances with the choreographers

05.12.2021

Performance times: 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. WIB

OFFLINE | Rooftop Komunitas Salihara

Please pre-register via the Komunitas Salihara website

Discussion “How does art care (for whom)?”

07.12.2021, 7:30 - 9 p.m. WIB

With Sascia Bailer (Germany), Joned Suryatmoko (Indonesia) and Sara Rivera (the Philippines)

ONLINE | YouTube Goethe-Institut Indonesien

Online access

The instructions recorded on six audio tracks are accessible online through the website of Norrm Radio at www.radio.norrm.com/bodiesofcare/ until 31 December.

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We cordially invite media representatives to the press tour session of the exhibition. Media representatives who would like to attend are requested to register in advance by clicking this link (bit.ly/bodiesofcarepress) and by filling out all the required information at least one day before the event.

Where: Komunitas Salihara, Jl. Salihara 16, Pasar Minggu, South Jakarta

When: Saturday, 4 December 2021, 5 p.m. WIB (*Media registration will open at 4:30 p.m. WIB*)

About Goethe-Institut

The Goethe-Institut is the Federal Republic of Germany’s cultural institute, active worldwide. We promote the study of German abroad and encourage international cultural exchange. We also provide a comprehensive image of Germany through information on German political, social and cultural life. Our various cultural and educational programs support intercultural dialogue and enable cultural participation. These various programs strengthen the structures of civil society and support global mobility.

About Sasikirana KoreoLAB & Dance Camp

The Sasikirana KoreoLAB & Dance Camp initiative aims to bring back the notion of the body as a tool of expression, not just the medium of representation. Focusing on contemporary dance, Sasikirana has held annual one-week intensive dance workshops since 2015 that take place in NuArt Sculpture Park (Bandung). In 2020 Sasikirana launched DOKUMEN.TARI, an extension of the dance camp that primarily focuses on upgrading the skills of young Indonesian dancers with respect to articulating their critical thinking. The program is a platform where young Indonesian dancers can store their life stories accompanied by visual documentation, thus making it the first accessible database of its kind in Indonesia.

About LIGNA

LIGNA is a media & performance collective of artists Ole Frahm, Michael Hüners and Torsten Michaelsen. Since 2002 their work has been devoted to creating temporary situations that utilize the audience as a collective of producers—an association that can produce unforeseeable, uncontrollable effects which challenge the regulation of a space. One of LIGNA's models of media usage, the Radio Ballet (invented in 2002) provides radio listeners with a choreography of excluded and forbidden gestures in formerly public but now controlled spaces such as train stations and shopping malls. In 2017 LIGNA received the George Tabori prize, the most important award in the German free theater scene.

About Melati Suryodarmo

Melati Suryodarmo is an Indonesian durational performance artist. Her physically demanding performances make use of repetitive motions and often last for many hours, sometimes reaching “a level of factual absurdity”. Suryodarmo has performed and exhibited throughout Europe, Asia and North America. Born in Surakarta, she attended Padjadjaran University in Bandung and graduated with a degree in international relations before moving to Germany. She lived there for 20 years and studied performance art at the Braunschweig University of Art with Butoh choreographer Anzu Furukawa and performance artist Marina Abramović. Melati later returned to Indonesia and founded Undisclosed Territory, an annual festival for performance art. Melati also established Studio Plesungan in Surakarta.

About Norrm Radio

Norrm Radio is an online Bandung radio station and platform that started broadcasting in 2017. Having worked with more than 200 contributors, the platform creates networks through music by providing the space for discussions and promoting arts and culture in Asia.

About Komunitas Salihara

Salihara Arts Center presents a diversity of recent contemporary art from Indonesia and the world, for both performance and educational purposes, in a creative and cool environment in the midst of the hustle and bustle of south Jakarta. Salihara is open to those interested in developing creativity and skills by respecting and reviving the multiplicity of art and freedom of thought in Indonesia.

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